HOLY NIGHT

This painting of the first Christmas was done by Feuerstein, an Alsatian who taught at the Munich Academy of Art.

Tradition of Poppy

The poppy loaf, traditionally a part of Christmas Eve supper in Lithuania, is a small loaf made of bread dough and baked hard in a bread pan. When cool, the loaves are dipped in a solution made of water and sugar and ground poppy seed which is also used as a traditional holiday beverage.

Tradition prescribes that the poppy seed should be ground in an iron kettle using an ax handle as a mallet, and no Lithuanian would think of grinding seeds for the Christmas poppy loaves by any other method.

It Takes Know-How To Burn a Yule Log

THE YULE LOG is a tradition of Christmas, but due to central heating and gas stoves it is becoming a lost tradition in this country. Few city dwellers have open grates or desire a log fire. And those living in the country find coal more efficient and less trouble.

However, for those who have a place to burn the yule log and want one, tradition says it should be oak, ash, olive, apple or pine. Further, the fire on which it is placed should be kindled from a brand saved from last year's log, and that it should not be allowed to go out during the night.

For those determined to have the yule log, the voice of experience says get hold of all the wood you can. Some kinds burn better than others, but reject none these days.

Ash is highly praised by some and can be used without being seasoned. It burns quickly, but throws off great heat. Poplar, on the other hand, should be seasoned or it will spark badly.

Elm is condemned as undesirable, but can be used. It is slow to get burning, but lasts a long time and brightens up when it gets going. A few logs of birch, pine or fir will help it along.

Beech and oak are among the best logs. Beech is especially good, having a pleasant aroma and a steady glow. Oak has the outstanding merit of burning slowly.

If none of these are available, wood from all kinds of fruit trees are prime favorites for the yule log because of their pleasant smell when burning.

America Has Provided World With Poinsettia

WHILE IT SEEMS rather odd, it certainly is interesting that America has given the world its most beloved Christmas plant—the poinsettia. This plant, like so many others of our best flowers, is native to tropical America. The florist has been able to propagate it and grow it in a small pot, so that, with its flaming red bracts or leaves, it makes a most desirable Christmas plant.

There is a sentiment that goes with most Christmas plants — we hate to throw them away. What can be done with the poinsettia? Most of us figure that it is easier and cheaper to throw it away. However, if properly handled, it will bloom for you a second or even a third or fourth year. You can even propagate it, if you wish, and have more plants.

Give the plant a resting period around the middle of February. The florist simply lays it under the benches, but you will probably put it in your basement. Water it occasionally — enough to keep the wood from wilting, but no more. Then, around the latter part of May or early in June, bring it out, cut it back rather severely, and repot it. You can then put it outside if you wish in the shade of a tree or shrub, and water it enough to keep it growing. Of course, if you have a nice, warm, sandy spot, you might plant it right in the ground, but most of us prefer to leave it in the pot,

Christmas Tree Is 150 Years Old In This Country

A CHRISTMAS TREE will be put up in two out of every three American homes this year. Yet the trimmed Christmas tree, as it is known today, is only about 150 years old in this country.

The Pilgrims forbade Christmas celebrations on the grounds they were pagan. A Massachusetts law in 1659 subjected anyone to a fine who observed the day by feasting, refraining from work or in any other manner.

It was not until near the end of the American Revolution that the Christmas tree took hold. German immigrants, homesick for the tradition of their native land, put them up.

The cusom of the lighted Christmas tree, some historians tell, originated with Martin Luther. He was fascinated by evergreen trees, glistening with starlit-snow, pointing to the heavens at Christmas time. So he brought an evergreen tree into his house and lighted it with candles for his children.

Another old German legend credits St. Boniface with the origin of the Christmas tree. Having converted some oak tree-worshipping Druids to Christianity, he took them into a forest, cut down an oak and pointed to a stately fir along side. "Take this tree," he said, "into your homes as a sign of your new worship. Celebrate God's power no more with shameful rites, but in the sanctity of your homes with laughter and love."

LAST REQUEST . . . Christmas came early last year for Gerald Washburn, 8, of Seattle. He was brought from his sickbed to sit with Santa Claus for a special visit before he entered a hospital to undergo surgery for a brain operation.

Away In A Manger
Martin Luther
Carl Müller
1. A-way in a manger, no crib for a bed, The lit-tle Lord
2. The cat-tle are low-ing, the Ba-by is wak-ing, But lit-tle Lord
3. Be near me, Lord Je-sus, I ask Thee to stay Close by me for
Je-sus had down his sweet head. The stars in the sky Looked
as-leep on the hay. And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.
down where he lay, The lit-tle Lord Je-sus a-sleep on the hay.
Bless all the dear children in
love from the sky. And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.
Bless-ing in love, I pray. And fit us for heaven to live with Thee there.

Silent Night
Joseph Mohr.
Franz Gruber.
1. Si-lent night, ho-ly night, All is calm, all is bright
2. Si-lent night, ho-ly night, Shep-herds first saw the light,
3. Si-lent night, ho-ly night, Son of God, love's pure light,
Round yon Vir-gin Mo-ther and Child. Ho-ly In-fant so ten-der and mild,
Heard the an-gels de-scribe the glad night, All the an-gels in heav'n
Ra-diant beams from Thy ho-ly face, With the dawn of re-deem-ing
Sleep in heav'nly peace, Sleep in heav'nly peace.
Sleep in heav'nly peace, Sleep in heav'nly peace.
Christ the Saviour is born, Christ the Saviour is born.
Christ the Saviour is born, Christ the Saviour is born.
A - men.

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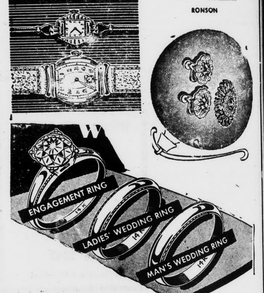

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IMPRESSIVE CEREMONY . . . The Rev. Hugh Giles (left, on stand), minister of music at the Central Presbyterian church in New York, is shown leading the carol singing which marked the lighting of the Christmas trees on Park avenue last year. Six hundred persons joined the choirs of five churches as the 30 trees along the avenue were lighted and dedicated in honor of U. S. war dead.

Spout Spring

Spout Spring, Dec. 5.- Miss Ruth Woodson is spending some time in New Jersey with relatives.

Ernest Layne is spending a vacation with his family here this week.

Congratulations to the newlyweds, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Reynolds.

Mrs. W. E. Layne and daughters were guests last Thursday night in the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Layne, Jr., of Appomattox.

Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Almond and son, George; Miss Margaret Moon and Mrs. Albert Reynolds were those who attended the Reynolds-Almond wedding at Stanleytown on Saturday.

Korean civilians are reported as fleeing southward.

Pope urges prayers for peace.

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Charles Dickens' 'Life of Our Lord' Is a Moving Story

LAST YEAR, the heretofore unpublished Dickens' manuscript "The Life of Our Lord" was presented to the world.

Written 100 years earlier for the exclusive audience of the author's own children, it is a child's life of Christ—a simple, moving narrative, understandable even to a child and yet touched by that incomparable Dickens genius which insures its place by the side of the famous 'Christmas Carol' among the great masterpieces of Christmas literature.

Because he felt such deep veneration for the life and lessons of our Saviour, he left instructions

that this particular manuscript should not be commercialized. But when Sir Henry Fielding Dickens, the author's youngest child, died in 1933, it was finally brought forth and sold for the staggering amount of $210,000 — or, $15 per word.

Purchased by the London Daily Mail, the manuscript became a literary event of the first magnitude, destined to be read and cherished forever wherever thoughtful parents, like Dickens himself, want their children to know something about the history of Jesus Christ. For, according to Dickens:

"Everybody ought to know about Him. No one ever lived who was so good, so kind, so gentle, and so sorry for people who did wrong, or were in any way ill or miserable, as he was.

"And as He is now in heaven, where we all hope to go, and all meet each other after we are dead, and there be happy always together, you can never think what a good place heaven is, without knowing who He was and what He did."

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June Allyson, Dick Powell in
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Fresh Chevrolet Styling Imparts Lower Lines

The Styleline De Luxe four-door sedan is one of 14 models introduced by Chevrolet as its passenger car line for 1951. Notable in this picture are the design improvements which accentuate a longer, lower appearance. Radiator grilles have been simplified, the decorative body moulding lowered and rear fender crowns raised. Models also offer added safety.

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